

Working Together to Reduce Hazardous Waste

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County



State laws make everyone responsible for managing hazardous waste, from householders who use paint and pesticides to small businesses with leftover solvent, ink and wood finish.

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More than 63,000 businesses and 1.6 million citizens in the county each produce small quantities of hazardous waste.

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The wastes include pesticides, paints, motor oil, printing inks and other materials.

In King County the *Local Hazardous Waste Management Program* focuses on waste produced by households and small businesses. The program is an intensive effort to reduce and properly manage that waste through education, collection and technical assistance services.

Hazardous waste is a growing problem in King County and elsewhere. More than 63,000 businesses and 1.6 million citizens in the county each produce small quantities of hazardous waste. In 1991 county residents and businesses collectively dumped an estimated 20,000 tons of hazardous waste in the trash, down the sewer, into storm drains or directly onto the ground. The wastes include pesticides, paints, motor oil, printing inks and other materials.

This jointly operated, regional program covers new ground in coordination and cooperation. While each agency has separate responsibilities, they all work together in implementation and long-term planning.

Program services include:

- Education (for the public and schools) on household hazardous waste
- Household hazardous waste collection (fixed sites and Wastemobile)
- Small business (small quantity generator, or SQG) education, technical assistance and help with compliance issues
- SQG collection and waste handling information
- Hazardous Waste Library
- Industrial Materials Exchange
- Hazards Line and Business Waste Line
- Website

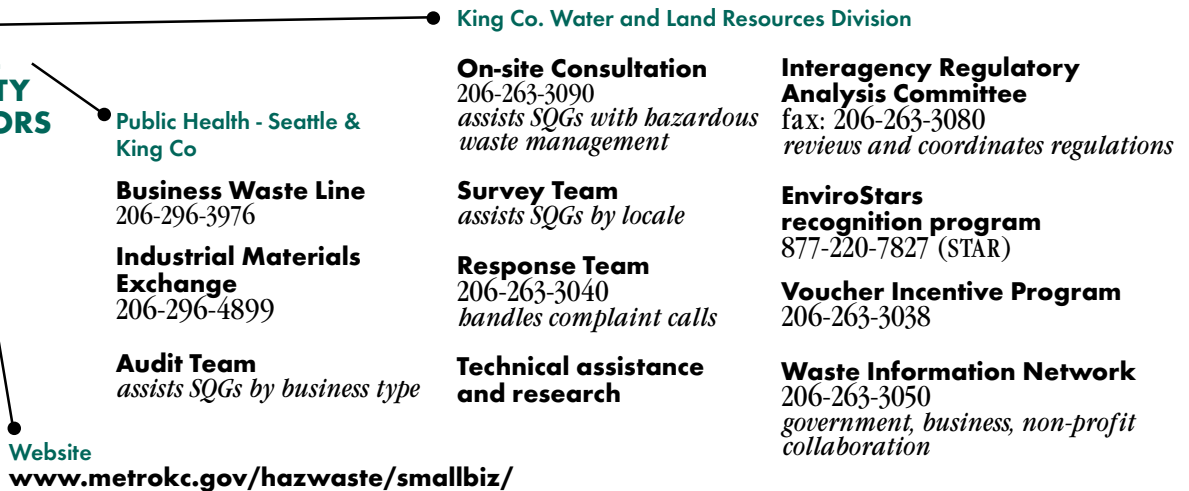
The program is funded through fees added onto commercial and residential garbage and sewer rates. The year 2000 budget for all elements of the program is \$11.6 million.

The local program is a cooperative effort among several agencies:

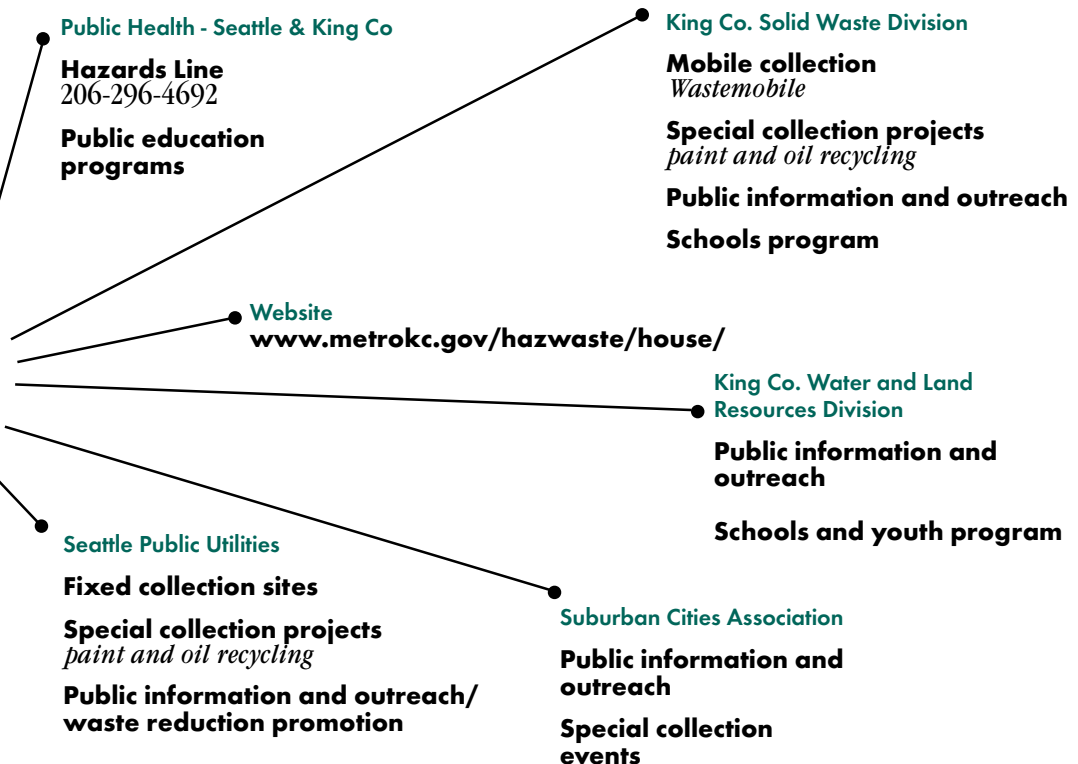
- WEBSITE: www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/
- Public Health - Seattle & King County
206-296-4722
- King County Water and Land Resources Division
206-263-3050
- King County Solid Waste Division
206-296-6542
- Seattle Public Utilities/Solid Waste Management
206-684-7600
- Suburban Cities Association
206-236-7676

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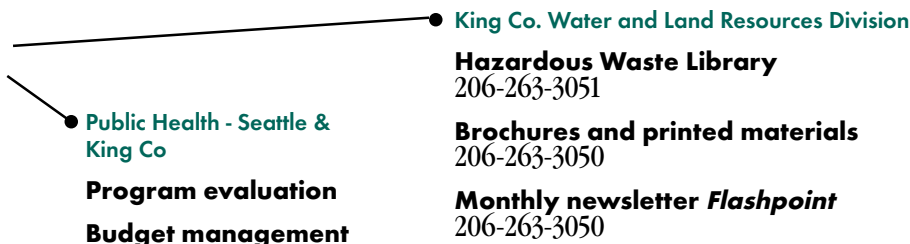
for SMALL QUANTITY GENERATORS



for HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



GENERAL SERVICES



Small Business Services

▼
Website:

www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/smallbiz/

▼
Business Waste Line
206-296-3976

▼
On-site consultation team
206-263-3090

▼
Response team
206-263-3040

▼
Interagency Regulatory Analysis Committee (IRAC)
Fax: 206-263-3080

▼
Voucher Incentive Program
206-263-3090

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EnviroStars
877-220-7827 (STAR) or
www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/estars/

▼
Industrial Materials Exchange
206-296-4899 or
www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/imex/

Small quantity generators (SQGs) are businesses that produce less than 200 pounds of hazardous waste each month. Program services help these businesses comply with regulations and reduce waste and help businesses that generate more waste to become SQGs.

Business Waste Line 206-296-3976

The Business Waste Line answers questions from small businesses about hazardous waste. Staff also make referrals to other agencies and vendors and send out print materials. The line may be used to report complaints and hazardous waste violations. Calls are anonymous if requested.



SQG Technical Assistance

Technical staff provide help with waste reduction, recycling and treatment, and develop best management practices for small businesses. Staff promote the exchange of information between those that develop new technologies and those that need them and conduct studies to determine whether or not certain waste materials are hazardous.

Field Visits

Four field teams work directly with small businesses to tailor hazardous waste management information to their particular needs:

- **Survey team** The survey team visits all businesses in selected geographic areas to identify SQGs, observe their hazardous waste handling practices, answer questions and assess their needs. Data collected by the survey team are used to develop educational materials and to identify business types for future program efforts.
- **Audit team** Focused by business type rather than location, the audit team visits SQGs that are part of a priority business sector, such as autobody repair shops and screen print shops. The audit team helps businesses implement best management practices, provides written materials tailored to specific industries and helps with compliance issues.



- **On-site consultation team**

206-263-3090

Consultation staff make on-site visits if invited by a business. Only SQGs or businesses that are potential SQGs qualify. Staff work with business owners to develop practical hazardous waste handling programs, reduce waste and comply with regulations.

- **Response team**

206-263-3040

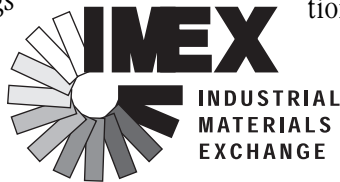
The response team answers hazardous waste complaint calls from the general public, businesses and other agencies. The team investigates complaints and works with business owners to resolve problems.

Industrial Materials Exchange

206-296-4899 or

www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/imex/

The Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX) is a free service to match businesses that produce wastes or surplus materials with businesses that need them. Listings can be found in a bimonthly catalog or on the website.



Voucher Incentive Program

206-263-3038

Qualified businesses can be reimbursed for costs of properly managing hazardous wastes. Vouchers cover 50 percent of the amount spent, up to \$500 maximum, for hauling, disposal, recycling or purchase of certain equipment.

EnviroStars

877-220-7827

(STAR) or

www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/estars/



ENVIROSTARS

This program recognizes businesses that properly manage and/or reduce hazardous waste. By doing so, it prompts consumers to patronize businesses that are environmentally sound. Window decals with two, three, four or five stars are given to qualified SQGs. Other forms of recognition include ads, wall certificates and nominations for other awards.

Interagency Regulatory Analysis Committee (IRAC)

Fax: 206-263-3080

This interagency group reviews regulations and ordinances, such as fire codes, drainage codes and hazardous waste regulations, for compatibility. IRAC works to resolve regulatory gaps and contradictions among these codes and regulations.

Hazardous Waste Library

206-263-3051

Email: haz.waste@metrokc.gov

The Hazardous Waste Library offers small businesses, citizens, agency staff and local officials one place to go for hazardous waste information. The library has on-site resources and is linked by computer to environmental information throughout the world. Anyone in King County can request help in person, by phone or via email.

Waste Information Network

206-263-3050

W.I.N. is a network of businesses, agencies, non-profit organizations and individuals that collaborate to promote pollution prevention and improve waste management practices.



Household Hazardous Waste Services

▼
Hazards Line
206-296-4692 or
1-888-ToxicEd

▼
Household Hazardous Waste
www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/house/

▼
Schools and Youth Program
www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers/

Since the best way to reduce waste is not to produce it in the first place, household hazardous waste services encourage people to buy and use less hazardous alternatives.

Hazards Line **206-296-4692 or** **1-888-ToxicEd**

This telephone hotline provides household hazardous waste (not business waste) information. The Hazards Line tells citizens where to dispose of their hazardous waste and makes appointments for the Aurora Household Hazardous Waste Collection site.

Household Hazardous Waste Education

www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/house/

Education efforts focus on reducing waste by encouraging people to buy and use alternatives to hazardous products.

Public Health - Seattle & King County, Seattle Public Utilities, King County Solid Waste and Water and Land Resources Divisions and many suburban cities have staff working on HHW education. These agencies coordinate their efforts with other organizations such as the Washington Toxics Coalition, American Lung Association, King County Cooperative Extension and Seattle Tilth.

Pesticide Education projects discourage the use of bug and weed killers:

- **The Natural Lawn Care Project** reaches a broad public through advertising, media relations, promotional events and other means.
- **The Green Gardening Program** educates residents and landscape professionals.
- **Grow Smart, Grow Safe** publication rates 300 lawn and garden products for their effects on health and the environment.

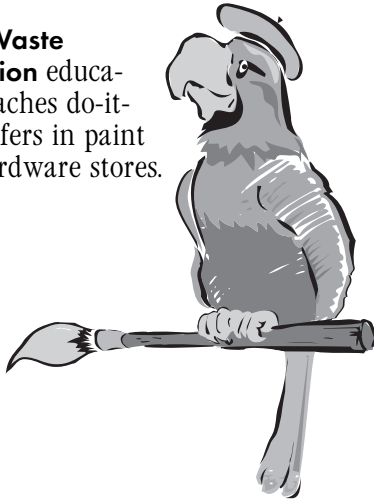
The HHW website provides information on less-toxic pest control methods, cleaning products, auto and paint products and on proper disposal.



Partnerships with community organizations reach a broad demographic audience.

Master Home Environmentalist uses trained volunteers to educate others about toxics in the home.

Paint Waste Reduction education reaches do-it-yourselfers in paint and hardware stores.



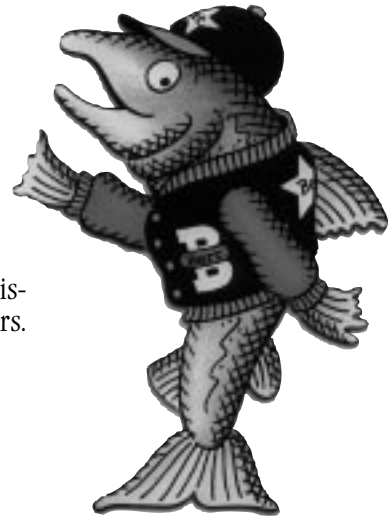
Schools and Youth Program

www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers/

This program is a resource for teachers, students, school administrators, parents and youth leaders.

Services include:

- Classroom presentations for grades 4-12
- *Hazards on the Homefront*, a HHW teacher's guide for grades 4-12
- Adult leader trainings
- Teaching materials for loan
- Teacher website including a list of available videos and books
- Interactive traveling exhibit
- Special projects with schools and youth groups



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Local governments share responsibility for household hazardous waste collection. Seattle Public Utilities operates two permanent Seattle sites - one in the south end and one in the north - where households can drop off hazardous waste.

The Wastemobile, operated by King County Solid Waste, visits 26 sites (including suburban cities) in the county each year to accept wastes. These sites provide information about alternatives to hazardous products. In addition, many suburban cities hold occasional special collection days for household hazardous waste.

The program promotes over 150 city and county used motor oil collection sites, including lube shops, gas stations and auto parts stores, for do-it-yourselfers to recycle used motor oil. Some paint stores also accept latex paint for recycling.

FOR MORE HELP . . .

Hazardous Waste Library - 206-263-3051

www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/hwl/

Email: haz.waste@metrokc.gov

The Hazardous Waste Library offers small businesses, citizens, agency staff and local officials one place to go for hazardous waste information. The library has on-site resources and is linked by computer to environmental information throughout the world. The program librarian maintains the LHWMP website. Anyone in King County can request help in person, by phone, via email or on the web.



Hazardous Waste Help

Website

www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/

On-site Consultation

206-263-3090

Email

haz.waste@metrokc.gov

Response Line

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1-877-220-7827 (STAR)

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206-296-4899

**Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
in King County**

130 Nickerson St., Ste. 100
Seattle, Washington 98109-1658

For additional copies, call 206-263-3050.

This information is available on request in accessible formats
for persons with disabilities by calling 206-263-3050 (voice)
or 206-296-0100 (TTY:King County Information.)

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